

DETAILED ACTION

Allowable Subject Matter

1. **Claims 1-13** are allowed.

The following is a statement of reasons for allowance:

As for independent claims 1 and 9, they recite a multi-channel encoder and decoder operable to process input signals conveyed in a plurality of input channels to generate corresponding output data comprising down-mix output signal together with complementary parametric data. Prior art such as Craven and Thumpudi discloses a similar encoder and decoder but fails to teach an analyzer for processing the input signals, said analyzer being operable to generate said parametric data complementary to the down-mix output signals, said encoder being operable when generating the down-mix output signals for also generating said parametric data, wherein said parametric data is specifically configured (i) to allow for subsequent decoding of the down-mix output signals (ii) for predicting signals of channels processed and (iii)(2) then discarded within the encoder, thereby enabling a subsequent decoding via a decoder to substantially regenerate with enhanced accuracy the corresponding discarded channels previously discarded within the encoder by predicting information of the previously discarded channels from the down-mix output signals and the parametric data.

Dependent claims 2-8 and 10-13 are allowed because they further limit their parent claims.

Conclusion

2. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to JAKIEDA R. JACKSON whose telephone number is (571)272-7619. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 5:30am-2:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Hudspeth can be reached on 571-272-7843. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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/Jakieda R Jackson/
Examiner, Art Unit 2626
June 1, 2010